

PANTOMIMES RUN INTO BIG MONEY

Modern Extravaganza Represents an Outlay of Something Like \$100,000—Half Again When Imported.

Would it surprise you to know that when the curtain is rung up on a modern extravaganza it represents an outlay of something like \$100,000?

That when it is imported there is an added outlay of not far from \$50,000 in new scenery, costumes, stage alterations, cellar excavations, to accommodate the lowering of transformation scenes out of sight, and the thousand and one expenditures in the American production? These figures are approximately close to the cost as shown by cash books and ledgers. If they are not exactly the sum expended they are so close in round numbers that the difference is not worth mentioning. For in all the history of pantomimes, as they are still called, clinging to the title by which they were known in the old days when they were "Christmas pantomimes" and nothing more, there never has been a record of one that cost less than its predecessor. They always cost more and more.

Constant Increase in Cost.

Sir Augustus Harris, of the Drury Lane Theater, London, once showed his account books, not all of them, of course, but some ledger extracts, that contained the total cost of various pantomimes produced year after year. The ever increasing of annual totals was startling.

It is conservative to say, by way of emphasizing the ever growing prodigious expenditures and the sum required now for a like purpose, that the total cost of such, say, twenty years ago was not one-half the sum required today. In fact, two great scenes alone of the many in "Mother Goose" represent an outlay greater than the entire cost of a pantomime produced by Sir Augustus then plain Mr. Harris, which at the time made London sit up and stare, while Mr. Harris' friends asked one another: "Is he going crazy?"

"No; he's only going to the bankruptcy court," was the reply.

But he didn't. He went to the bank to deposit enormous profits.

That has been the way pantomimes have been progressing in costliness year by year, and when Arthur Collins succeeded Sir Augustus, on his death, and took the direction of Drury Lane, it was not to make reforms in the way of economies, but to lavish still greater sums on the spectacles that drew to old Drury all of London that could get within the doors of the historic house on the "Boxing Night."

Half Way Would Mean Failure.

How can such a costly experiment ever pay?

If it cost half as much it would probably be a failure. It pays by being so gorgeous that it compels enormous at-

tendance during a long run. Take "The Sleeping Beauty and the Beast" as an example. Its initial cost was enormous, and had the experiment in New York been a failure Messrs. Klaw & Erlanger would have received a staggering blow. But it played there during practically an entire season to packed houses. And its receipts were nearly \$500,000 gross. That was two years ago, and it is still "on the road."

"Receipts, \$50,000. Cost here and in London, \$150,000. Profits, \$350,000." That is not the way to figure on the modern extravaganza.

During the season the cost of a company and its employees, numbering some four hundred people, is enormous, even if the bulk of them are supernumeraries.

But to this must be added the maintaining, repairing, "freshening up" and frequently replacing of the dresses. These sometimes number 1,500. They get torn, soiled, or worn out, in a manner all but heart-breaking to a man that lets such things worry him, and they must be repaired, refreshed, or replaced at once.

Five to Care for Wigs.

Dresses are only one item. There are wigs, tiaras, shoes, slippers, gloves, ornaments, garlands, and what not for every individual change of dresses. So multiply 1,500 by these. And there are expensive armor suits by hundreds, for processions, ballets, and the like, with the helmets, spears, banners, and "properties" by the well, there is no use saying hundreds for it is useless to try to count them. They would fill a small-sized storehouse.

All these things cost a large sum at the outset and continue to cost so much more to be maintained. As an example of the unconsidered trifles of expense, all the changes of wigs worn by the chorus and ballet, and hurriedly tossed aside, have to be brushed and recurred every day to keep them in good order for appearance at night. Five coiffeurs work all day every day during the run of such a piece as "Mother Goose" on curling and re-arranging these hundreds of wigs.

Letting Down a Palace

Then the scenery. There is a constant change of "sets" during the evening. Each of these and its stage details represent a considerable outlay. The glass palace in "The Sleeping Beauty and the Beast" took three weeks to set it up and put it in place, and seven tons of small pieces of blue, red, and amber glass were used in its construction.

As it could not be taken down each night they had to blast out the cellar

of the National Theater, making it some fifteen feet deeper than it was before.

Then they cut an enormous stage "trap," sixteen by seventy-five feet, constructed an elevator under the stage, and each night hoisted up the "crystal palace" intact to the level of the stage and after the brief scene was over sank it out of sight and closed the trap.

That single feature, but only one of many, cost thousands of dollars. So much for that side of the affair. But there is another that is even more interesting.

What becomes of all these expensive

things when the "metropolitan" run and the "road" tour are ended and the piece is withdrawn from the stage for good and all?

They represent an original outlay of say \$100,000. The question is, Who buys them, and what are they worth?

No one buys them. For they are not worth a rap. As assets they are not worth a cent practically, and are a dead loss except in the play. Worse than that, the manager cannot get anyone to cart them away as a gift. The moment a performance is over the scenery and costumes go to a storehouse, and they are valuable as little more than junk.

An illustration of this was offered by the "Sleeping Beauty and the Beast" glass palace. It was impractical to move this structure about the country, so with all its beautiful Venetian molding and its seven tons of glass, it had to be taken down.

It had passed through the custom house under bond for export again, and it had to be shipped out of the country for there would be heavy custom duty to pay. Ergo, it had to be returned to England.

When the American managers called Mr. Collins, of Drury Lane, asking what disposition to make of it, as they were through with it, he promptly wired back:

"If you are through with it, sink it in your bay."

This could not be done under the custom laws, so the palace was deliberately smashed up in bits of broken glass, packed in cases, 80 in number, put aboard a slow sailing vessel, and sent to some English port, that a landing receipt could be secured and the American bondsmen released. In fact, they would have given some one \$1,000 to take that glass palace off their hands in New York.

On arrival in England the boxes of broken glass were given away. That is a dealer offered \$5 for the lot, and his offer was accepted so quickly that it staggered him.



Examples of Costumes in Mother Goose Which Eventually Reach The Junk Pile

FUNDS OF STATE PAID THEIR PERSONAL DEBTS

PARIS, Dec. 17.—Members of the opposition of the French Chamber of Deputies have brought serious charges against certain members of the government, Bloch, whom they accuse of appropriating funds of state to pay their personal debts.

Two hundred thousand dollars, it is stated, has thus disappeared without being accounted for. Bloch representing an identical amount have recently been settled by the extreme radical deputies, who are notoriously embarrassed financially.

The coincidence is, say the members of the opposition, singular, to say the least. The Bloch has been approached with a request to furnish explanations, falling which a public scandal will be provoked.

XMAS PIANO SALE.

F. G. Smith Piano Company Closing Out Fifty Pianos at Less Than Factory Price.

A BIG SAVING!

Upright Pianos as Low as \$125, \$175, \$195 That Originally Cost Twice Those Amounts.

Easy Terms of \$5 and \$6 Monthly Will Be Accepted by the Company During The Sale.

Next week will be the last week before Christmas, and probably the last opportunity to secure the piano bargains offered at the Factory Sale of the F. G. Smith Piano Co., 123 Pa. ave. If you are going to surprise the folks at home with a piano this Christmas it behooves you to act promptly and secure one of these high-grade pianos which are offered during the sale at the lowest prices ever named in a similar sale. Second-hand upright pianos of leading makes and in excellent condition musically are offered at actually less than auction prices.

At this writing there are a half dozen or more upright pianos at the company's warehouses which may be purchased for \$125, \$150, \$175, etc., that must have cost more than double that when new. Better see them early Monday morning and put a deposit on one of these instruments before they are sold.

Nearly new uprights are offered in many cases at \$100 to \$175 less than regular prices, and most any one of these bargains may be obtained on terms of \$5 and \$6 monthly payment.

Square pianos and organs are being practically given away at \$10, \$15, \$25, \$35, \$45, etc.

Liberal allowance made for old square or upright pianos in exchange for new uprights—and no cash required until after the holidays—the new piano to be delivered at your residence at once, so that you may have it before Christmas. The warehouses will be open evenings all this week.

Buy Your Wines of a Wine Merchant Who Intimately Knows Their Nature.

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Quality House

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The oldest and rarest,
as well as excellent,
grades at fixed, modest
prices. * * *

Christian Xander's

Foreign and Domestic Family Wines and Distillates for the Holidays.

The festive board should be graced by pure and healthful wines or other beverages that in all regards comply with the pure food law. Thousands of patrons will testify that the best place in town to deal is at Christian Xander's forty year old quality house. The stock of 307 different standards, the largest and best appointed south of New York, selected with the exclusion of any faulty, unwholesome or imperfectly developed grades, at fixed moderate wholesale prices, contains abundance of beverages that suit all purses. There are veritable treasures of the oldest and rarest wines and distillates, fit for princes' tables, and down to the cheapest standards, their qualities are perfect and unsurpassed by other houses. There is the additional advantage in selecting beverages at this quality house, that from a hundred original casks comparison by sampling is facilitated of such beverages, which, bottled by Christian Xander, are personally guaranteed by him.

Washington's
Quality House

909 7th St. N. W.

Phone Main 274

Sending in Xmas Orders before December 23 facilitates regularity in deliveries and avoids crowding at the store. sylvania Avenue and F Street, some-

Direct Importations

Red Wines	35 from France	\$4.00 to \$28.50 doz
"	2 from Spain	\$6.00 doz
"	2 from Italy	\$8.00 doz
"	2 from Germany	\$17.00 doz
White Wines	40 from Germany	\$6.00 to \$20.50 doz
"	12 from France	\$8.00 to \$24.00 doz
"	2 from Italy	\$6.50 to \$8.00 doz
Champagnes	All prominent brands	\$31.00 to \$33.00 doz
Port Wines	5 from Portugal	\$4.00 to \$8.00 gal
"	1 from Spain	\$3.00 gal
Madeiras	5 from Portugal	\$4.00 to \$8.00 gal
Sherries	19 from Domesq Xerez	\$2.00 to \$12.00 gal
Whiskies	5 from Scotland	\$4.00 to \$6.00 gal
"	3 from Ireland	Card prices
Brandies	4 from Cognac	\$6.00 to \$12.00 gal
"	4 from Cognac and Spain	Card prices
Rums	4 from West Indies	\$2.00 to \$6.00 gal
Arrak	1 from Batavia	\$6.00 gal
Gins	4 from Holland	\$4.00 to \$5.00 gal
"	4 from England	\$4 and card prices
Liqueurs	24 from Europe	\$1.50 to \$2.50 qt
Cordials	18 from Europe	\$1.50 bottle
Bitters	3 from Europe	\$1.50 bottle
Punches	3 from Europe	\$1.00 to \$1.50 bottle
Miscellaneous Beverages	84 from Europe	

Proprietary

2 Cocktails	\$1.25 bottle, 75c pt
2 Melliston Wild Cherry Cordials (medal, Paris)	75c bottle, 40c and 50c pt
1 Stomach Bitters (medal, Paris)	75c bottle
1 Ampelos Punch	\$2.50 gal, 65c qt
1 Kimmel	75c qt
1 Coca Wine	60c bottle
1 Kolafr Port	60c bottle
3 Blackberry Wine and Cordials	50c to 75c qt
4 Virginia Clarets (medal, Paris)	\$1.75 to \$1.00 doz
4 Virginia Ports (medal, Paris)	\$1.00 to \$4.00 gal
16 Whiskies, own brands	\$1.25 to \$12.00 gal

Sole Distributer of

19 Pedro Domesq's Sherries	\$2.00 to \$12.00 gal
1 Rioja, Castilian Claret (Paris, Grand Prix)	\$6.00 doz
2 Jules Mumm Champagnes	\$31.50 doz qts. \$2.75 qt
(Best quality, cts. pts., splits.)	
2 Grand Imperial Sec Champagnes, Hammondsport, N. Y.	\$12.00 doz. \$1.25 qt
9 Rheinberg's Rhine Wines	\$8.00 to \$19.50 doz
3 Cresta Blanca Cal. Clarets	\$5.50 to \$8.00 doz
3 Cresta Blanca Cal. Sauternes	\$5.00 to \$11.00 doz
1 Kaiser Water from Aix la Chapelle. Case 50 qts.	\$7. \$2 doz qts. \$1.40 doz pts.

Domestic

Red Wines	4 Virginia Clarets	\$1.75 to \$4.00 doz
"	6 California Clarets	\$2.50 to \$4.00 doz
"	3 Cal. Cresta Blanca	\$5.50 to \$8.00 doz
White Wines	9 from California	\$3.00 to \$5.00 doz
"	3 Cal. Cresta Blanca	\$6.00 to \$11.00 doz
Champagnes	2 from N. Y. State	\$12.50 to \$13.00 doz
Port Wines	4 from Virginia grapes	\$1.00 to \$4.00 gal
"	3 from California	\$1.50 to \$2.50 gal
Madeira	1 from California	\$1.50 gal
Sherries	2 from California	\$1.50 to \$2.00 gal
Tokays	2 from California	\$1.50 to \$2.50 gal
Angelica	1 from California	\$1.50 gal
Muscatel	1 from California	\$1.50 gal
Orange Wine	1 from California	\$2.00 gal
Apriest Wine	1 from California	\$2.00 gal
Brandies	4 from California	\$1.25 to \$4.00 gal
Rums	4 from New England	\$1.25 to \$4.00 gal
3 Gins, from	\$1.25 to \$2.00 gal	
4 Cordials, from	60c to 75c per bottle	
5 Bitters, from	50c to 75c per bottle	
2 Punches, from	65c to \$1.00 per bottle	
5 Cocktails, from	75c to \$1.25 per bottle	
16 Miscellaneous Beverages		

CHRISTIAN XANDER'S QUALITY HOUSE, 909 Seventh Street N. W.

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